

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/710,525

Examiner

Louis J. Casaregola

Applicant(s)

HENRIQUEZ, JOHN

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons For Allowance

The claimed invention in this case is an end cover for a gas turbine combustor, the end cover comprising first and second inlets along with first and second manifolds for first and second fluids (air and combustible gas). Combustor end covers that include inlets, manifolds, and related fluid flow structure are well known in the gas turbine field as shown, for example, by any of the various references cited on the attached Forms PTO-892 and PTO/SB/08. The claimed end cover additionally includes a plate comprising a plurality of openings located along its forward face and communicating with the first and second manifolds. The plate further comprises an integrally formed wall separating the first and second fluids; see Fig. 3B and note wall 35 separating the two fluids conducted to openings 24. Several references also disclose combustor end covers with corresponding fluid openings and walls; see Figure 2 of Ford et al (PTO/SB/08), Figures 1 and 2 of Castaldo et al (PTO/B/08), and the Figures 1 and 2 of the present application. These examples, however, employ separate inserts rather than integral plate structure to define the openings and separating walls, and in each case, the openings are located on the inserts axially spaced from the plate rather than along the plate face. Ford discloses a further end cover embodiment, which includes openings and walls, and which is cast as an integral unit; see Figure 5, element 66. While the rear portion of this end cover can be construed as a plate, the openings are not however located along the plate face as claimed, but rather, on cast projections

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axially spaced from the plate face. It is additionally maintained that any obvious application of Ford's integral cover concept to the other prior art end covers would not result in a cover plate having fluid separating wall structure integrally formed from a portion of the plate together with openings located along the plate's forward face as specified in the present claims. The claimed invention is therefore considered patentable over the prior art.



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May 7, 2007

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Anthony Stashick, can be reached at 571-272-4561.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).